

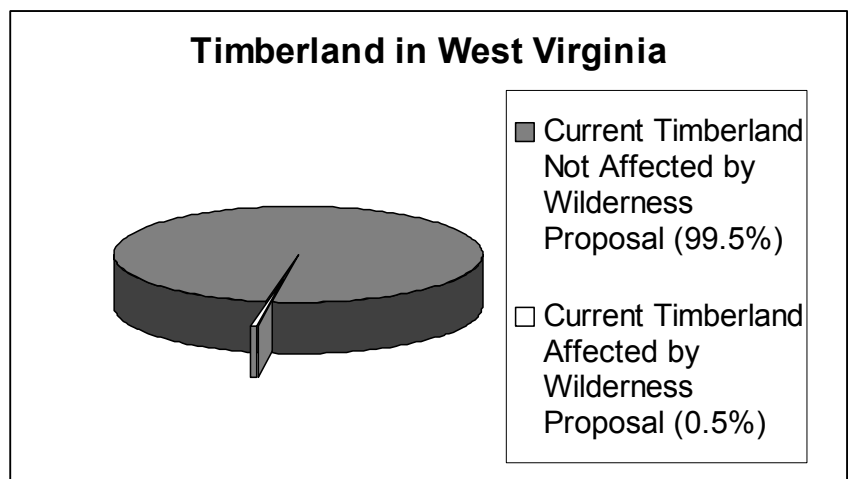
Wilderness on the Mon and the Timber Industry

Will land designated Wilderness, which prohibits timbering and road building, negatively impact West Virginia's timber supply and harvesting?

NO. Wilderness can only be designated on public, federally managed land, which represents only about 6% of West Virginia's land base. The areas proposed for Wilderness are located on the Monongahela National Forest which is managed by the U.S. Forest Service. **According to the U.S. Forest Service, timber from the Mon NF supplies about 3.2% of the state's timber harvest¹** In fact, the majority of Mon NF land proposed for Wilderness has been out of the timber base for the past 18 years. Other relevant facts:

- West Virginia's more than 15 million acres are nearly 80% forested.
- 98% of this forest land is classified as timberland or "commercial forest land," with 98% of this owned by private individuals or corporations.
- Wilderness designation would have NO impact on these private lands that produce over 95% of WV's commercially-harvested timber.
- The wilderness proposal put forth by the West Virginia Wilderness Coalition would affect **only 0.5%** of the state's commercial timberland, thus preserving WV's timber-based economy while providing for the enhancement of a broad array of other forest uses.

Outdoor recreation/tourism and timber production both are important segments of the West Virginia economy. Preservation of Wilderness areas on the Monongahela National Forest will ensure the growth of a diversified tourism economy, while allowing for the continued growth of a diversified forest products industry.



¹ USDA Forest Service, 1997. *Forest Inventory and Analysis: Timber Product Output*, Timber Removals Database Retrieval System. srsfia.usfs.msstate.edu/rpa/tpo

² All proposed wilderness areas (143,000 acres) are on federal public land. The 0.5% of WV timberlands affected by this proposal consists of 59,947 acres of roadless land currently under an MNF timber management prescription. The remainder of the proposal acreage is managed outside of the MNF timber base.